

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Claim 7 has been allowed.

Claims 2-4 have been indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter. In reliance thereupon, new claim 8 is a combination of claim 1 and allowable claim 2. New claims 9-11 correspond to original claims 3-5. In view of the indication that claim 2 was allowable, allowance of claims 8-11 is solicited.

Claim 6 is rejected as indefinite.

Claim 6 has been amended to remedy the stated basis of rejection. In view of the amendment, withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection is solicited.

Claims 1, 5, and 6 stand rejected as obvious over applicant's Prior Art Figure 3 (the second prior art of Figure 2?) in view of JP11-326857 (JP'857). It is believed that Prior Art Figure 2 is the correct reference, based on the Official Action's discussion. Figure 3 is a cross sectional view showing the structure of an apparatus for manufacturing a liquid crystal display used in the second prior art of Figure 2.

Prior to considering the rejection, a review of applicant's Prior Art and JP'857 is provided.

Reference is made to specification pages 3-6 and Figure 2. As shown, in this second prior art two substrates are

provided, and an orientation film is formed on both a first substrate (a TFT substrate) and a second substrate (a CF substrate) (step S11).

At step S13, a liquid crystal is dropped inside of the sealing material in the first substrate, and the surfaces of the second substrate and the first substrate on are opposed in a vacuum and aligned, and pressed each other, and then the vacuum is released to the atmosphere.

In the second prior art, although the CF substrate and the TFT substrate are pressed with superposed state in a vacuum, an alignment between the second substrate 132 (the CF substrate) and the first substrate 131 (the TFT substrate) is performed before being pressed. At this time, the gap between the second substrate and the first substrate is from about 0.2 to 0.5 mm. Further, the gap between the CF substrate and the TFT substrate, after being pressed by atmosphere (referred to as "an atmospheric press"), is about 5 μ m.

The Official Action acknowledges that applicant's prior art makes no teaching as to alignment while pressing the substrates, i.e., performing an alignment between said first and second substrates while pressing said second substrate on a surface of said first substrate.

JP'857, paragraphs 0022 and 0025, are offered as disclosing performing alignment between the first and second

substrates at the same time pressing the two substrates.
Applicant does not see this disclosure.

The JP'857 disclosure of paragraphs 0022-0025 follows:

[0022] Moreover, while becoming possible to perform alignment of both substrates, and actuation of pressurization in the same location, without carrying out conveyance migration of both the substrates in any way as a result of establishing an exhaust-air means exhaust the space between said two substrates, while establishing a location recognition means recognized each alignment mark of two substrates through said translucency plate and miniaturizing a configuration, a location gap is avoided and a highly precise liquid crystal cell can manufacture.

[0023] Two substrates which the 2nd invention has an alignment mark in the assembly equipment of a substrate, respectively, similarly counters mutually through the sealing compound applied to one of substrate sides at least, and are stuck, In the process which narrows the opposite distance between these two substrates one by one, and sticks it, in two or more locations where opposite distance differs Recognition of the amount of location gaps between two substrates by said alignment mark, The lamination device which sticks two substrates after performing amendment of the amount of location gaps based on this recognition, It is characterized by providing an exhaust air means to exhaust the space between said two substrates laid on the translucency plate which lays said two substrates stuck by

this lamination device, and this translucency plate.

[0024] In case the opposite distance between two substrates is narrowed one by one and stuck in a lamination device in this 2nd invention, they are two or more locations where opposite distance differs. Since it sticks after performing recognition of the mutual amount of location gaps by the alignment mark, and amendment of the amount of location gaps based on this recognition, there are few relative-position gaps when both substrates contact, and they can lessen the amount of location gap amendments after contact.

[0025] Moreover, since two piled-up substrates were laid on the translucency plate, while being able to recognize each alignment mark of a substrate from a lower part in the condition, it becomes possible to perform alignment of both substrates, and actuation of pressurization in the same location, without carrying out conveyance migration of both the substrates in any way, and with the miniaturization of a configuration, a location gap is avoided and a highly precise liquid crystal cell can be manufactured.

In these passages, it is an exhausting means that is being referred to by the term "pressurization". Please next refer to the Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To efficiently produce high precision and high quality liquid crystal panels.

SOLUTION: At least one of two substrates 12, 13 is coated with

sealant 17 and the two substrates 12, 13 are superposed on each other by reversing operation of the substrate 12. In the superposition ... good quality. Besides the substrate 13 is held by a transparent plate 63 (a light transmissive plate), its position is adjusted from underside by recognizing the alignment marks of the two substrates and the two substrates 12, 13 are contacted by **a pressurizing means 68 (an exhausting means)** connected with a vacuum pump, thus enabling a high precision assembly of substrates with little positional deviation.

Thus, the JP'857 does not teach or suggest the missing features of the invention as recited by claim 1.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of claim 1 and its dependent claims are respectfully requested.


Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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